Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying VWF~~, characterized by~~ comprising the step of carrying out at least one hydroxylapatite flow chromatography.

2. (Currently Amended) The process for purifying VWF, ~~characterized in that~~comprising the steps of:
   (i) contacting a composition containing VWF and one or more contaminating proteins ~~is contacted~~ with a hydroxylapatite matrix so as to bind at least one contaminating protein to the hydroxylapatite matrix, while VWF is substantially not bound to the hydroxylapatite matrix, and optionally
   (ii) separating unbound VWF ~~is separated~~ from the hydroxylapatite matrix.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, characterized in that VWF is found in the flow and at least one contaminating protein is bound to hydroxylapatite.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~claim 2, characterized in that the contaminating protein is fibronectin or fibrinogen.

5. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that hydroxylapatite chromatography is carried out at a pH of 6.5 to 8.0, preferably 6.8 to 7.5.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that a solution containing sodium phosphate and/or potassium phosphate is used as the running buffer.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that VWF is bound to a hydroxylapatite matrix in ~~another~~ a separate chromatographic step and then eluted.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7, characterized in that in ~~another~~ the separate chromatographic step comprises:
   (a) binding VWF ~~is bound~~ to the hydroxylapatite matrix,
   (b) washing out impurities ~~are washed out~~, and
   (c) eluting the VWF containing fraction of interest ~~is then eluted~~ at a higher salt concentration.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that in step (a) a composition containing VWF, one or more contaminating proteins and 1 to 200 mM~~, preferably 1 to 50 mM,~~ sodium and/or potassium phosphate, is contacted with the hydroxylapatite matrix.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 8~~ or 9~~, characterized in that in step (b) the hydroxylapatite matrix is washed with a buffer containing 100 to 300 mM~~, preferably 150 to 250 mM,~~ sodium and/or potassium phosphate.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~claim 8, characterized in that in step (c) the VWF containing fraction of interest is eluted with a buffer containing 200 to 500 mM~~, preferably 250 to 400 mM,~~ sodium and/or potassium phosphate.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 7 to 11~~claim 7, characterized in that hydroxylapatite chromatography is carried out at a pH of 5 to 7.5~~, preferably 5.5 to below 6.8~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, characterized in that flow chromatography with hydroxylapatite is initially carried out, such that VWF ~~not binding~~does not bind to the hydroxylapatite matrix, ~~and~~ then the flow fraction is re-chromatographed under binding conditions and the VWF fraction is eluted.

14. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~claim 1, characterized in that a previously purified plasma fraction is used as ~~the~~ a starting material.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~claim 1, characterized in that ~~another~~ a separately purified cryoprecipitate solution is used as ~~the~~ a starting material.

16. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1, characterized in that a cryoprecipitate solution precipitated with aluminum hydroxide is used as ~~the~~ a starting material.

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~claim 1, characterized in that a chromatographically pre-purified cryoprecipitate solution precipitated with aluminum hydroxide is used as ~~the~~ a starting material.

18. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising the step of carrying out a pH precipitation ~~is carried out~~ prior to ~~the~~ hydroxylapatite chromatography to separate fibronectin.

19. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~claim 1, characterized in that a VWF containing protein solution from cell culture supernatants is used as ~~the~~ a starting material.

20. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 19~~claim 1, characterized in that hydroxylapatite ~~is~~ used ~~which~~ contains fluoride ions.

21. (Canceled) ~~Use of hydroxylapatite for purifying VWF~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A VWF containing composition ~~obtainable~~ obtained by ~~a~~ the process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~claim 1.

23. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 22~~, characterized in that it is~~ comprising a purified VWF preparation.